

WIGWAM TO WIGWAM

YOUR HOUSE TO HOUSE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2010



Sunday, February 14th, 2010



Remember to cheer for our Canadian athletes during the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games from February 12-28!

GO CANADA GO!



Please note that the office will be
CLOSED for *Family Day*

on

Monday, February 15th, 2010

Inside this issue:

In the News	2
In the News	3
Health Education	4
Green Bin Program	5
Residential School Support	6
Get your kids involved!	7
Get Involved	8



IN THE NEWS

From a single feather to a top-flight program; Aboriginal snowboard team hopeful sign for First Nations athletes

By Dirk Meisser, December 27, 2009, The Toronto Star, S5

Alwyn Morris held an eagle feather high during a historic medal ceremony where he became the first and only Canadian aboriginal athlete to win gold at an Olympic Games.

It was in 1984 in Los Angeles that Morris, a Mohawk from Kahnawake, Quebec, and his partner Hugh Fisher won a gold in the men's 1,000-metre doubles kayak race.

Morris's gold medal victory is a rare achievement for any athlete, but even rarer for an aboriginal. He joined Americans Jim Thorpe and Billy Mills as the only three North American aboriginals to ever win gold at the Olympics.

Morris, now 52, says his eagle feather salute in Los Angeles allowed him to say everything he wanted to his family, aboriginals, Canadians and the world, without uttering a word.

"What I did on the podium was really important for me," Morris said in a telephone interview from Montreal.

First, he said, he needed to pay tribute to his grandparents, who raised him through his youth. His grandfather died before he could witness Morris's achievement.

"He wasn't there any longer and I needed to be able to show my respect for what he had taught me and went through with me."

Morris said he also needed to share the victory with aboriginals and show Canadians he is an aboriginal.

"It was pretty obvious I was there as an athlete representing Canada, and Canadians as a whole certainly were jubilant and happy that Hugh and I had accomplished our goal and brought home a gold medal for Canada," said Morris.

But, he added, "I am a Mohawk person, and I'm aboriginal in Canada and it was important for me to be self identified in order to share that with the other part of who I am."

So far, there are no aboriginal athletes on Canada's 2010 Olympic Team.

Aaron Marchant, an aboriginal from B.C.'s Squamish Nation, has developed one of Canada's few aboriginal-focused sports programs, the First Nations Snowboard Team.

Formed in 2004, the team started with the goal of placing an aboriginal snowboarder on the Olympic podium in 2010, says Merchant.

The won't happen next year, but the program has expanded and now has aboriginal snowboarders training on 10 mountains, nine in B.C. and one in Washington state. Team members must maintain a C-plus average at school to adhere to strict rules regarding the use of drugs and alcohol, said Merchant.

Merchant, 32, said it's only a matter of time and money before an aboriginal snowboarder is on the Olympic podium.

"What we're doing is very positive," he said. "we're striving to get more athletes to have the support to get to that level. I definitely see our program progressing."

Morris said the First Nations Snowboard Team is a major first step towards developing Olympic-quality aboriginal athletes.

"It's still hit and miss," he said. "But if there wasn't a canoe club in Kahnawake, I would never have paddled."

Morris noted that aboriginal participation in the staging of the 2010 Games could also result in aboriginals on the Olympic podium for years to come. The four aboriginal nations on whose traditional territory the Games are being held have played an active role in preparations and received lucrative land and cash deals from the government in exchange for their support.

Morris knows he was lucky to have the opportunity to pursue his sport in Kahnawake, lucky he had strong family support, and lucky he had the opportunity to train and compete with the best.

Many aboriginals are not so fortunate.

"If you are never introduced to a sport that you can excel at and really show interest in, then what are the chances of you getting there?" he said. "You have to have the right things happening."

B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell called the aboriginal focus and participation in the Winter Games a bonus for Canada and the world.

"The more we include aboriginal young people in all we do, with an open invitation, then they're going to have lots of people who are going to be thriving," he said. "Whether it's in the National Hockey League or elsewhere, they are going to be great."

IN THE NEWS

Local Aboriginal man wins Coke contest

Friday, January 15, 2010

A local aboriginal man has won a unique art competition.

Garry Oker was one of four artists who won the Coca-Cola Aboriginal Art Bottle contest. The announcement was made on Thursday afternoon.

Oker decorated a giant Coke bottle with traditional aboriginal artwork.

The competition provides Aboriginal people across Canada the opportunity to experience the Olympic Spirit, while showcasing their art and culture to the world. More than 100 Aboriginal artists across Canada submitted an entry. The artists, both amateurs and professionals, are First Nations, Inuit or Métis.

Oker is a member of Doig River First Nation. He credits his artistic passion to his grandmother, who created beautiful pieces of art using traditional moose hides.

The art work will be displayed throughout the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Each bottle will be auctioned off to collectors from February 15-25th.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Vancouver 2010 Aboriginal Youth Legacy Fund to support sport, culture, sustainability and education initiatives for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis youth across Canada.

Anyone interested in bidding on the artwork can go online to www.icoke.ca



Photo: Garry Oker shows off his winning entry

Health Education



Anishnawbe Health Toronto

225 Queen Street East,
Toronto, ON M5A 1S4
Tel: 416-360-0486 www.aht.ca

Diabetes Education

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for developing Type 2 Diabetes (pre-diabetes)

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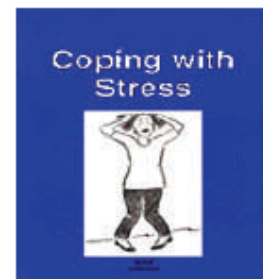
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For more information please call 416-360-0486

Toronto Green Bin Program



Factual highlights of the Green Bin program



Recently, there have been some media reports about the City's Green Bin organics collection program that questioned its value as a waste diversion tool and the quality of resulting compost. The City has replied, setting the record straight about this valued program and wants to share the factual highlights with you. The Green Bin program works and is well worth doing.

Diversion: Toronto's reported rate of 44% diversion of waste from landfill in 2008 is reliable because we use a standardized formula used by all Ontario municipalities to calculate waste diversion. This accounting method specifically removes the residue that goes to landfill from diversion statistics and only reports on material that is actually composted or recycled.

Use of plastic bags: Toronto's program maximizes convenience for residents which includes being able to use plastic bags (to line and contain organic materials). Other jurisdictions may not need to allow plastic bags but Toronto, with 500,000 multi-family homes, does. Because we've made the program easy to use, we've maintained high levels of participation from day one and produced one of the highest rates of compost per household in Ontario.

What goes to landfill: Any plastic entering our system is removed as residue (garbage) and it goes to landfill. This plastic residue was planned for, is accounted for and is included in our statistics as garbage, not as diversion. Toronto's Green Bin organic material does not go directly to landfill or incineration, but is processed to be turned into compost.

Compost quality: Our compost is an excellent soil amendment and a sustainable resource that meets strict Ministry of the Environment standards. It is not prohibitively high in sodium and is meant to be used as a soil conditioner and mixed with soil. As residents, you have every reason to be proud of Toronto's Green Bin program and your role in it. You have helped make it one of the first, largest, most effective successful waste diversion programs in North America.

Learn more facts about the Green Bin at www.toronto.ca/greenbin

Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Resolution Health Support Program

The Indian Residential Schools (IRS) Resolution Health Support Program provides eligible former students and their families with access to emotional health and wellness support services.

The IRS Resolution Health Support Program provides the following services:

- Professional counselling;
- Emotional Support provided by Resolution Health Support Workers;
- Cultural Support provided by Elders; and
- Assistance with the cost of transportation.

ELIGIBILITY

All former IRS students and their families (regardless of status or place of residence) who are:

- Eligible to receive or who are currently receiving the Common Experience Payment;
- Resolving a claim through the Independent Assessment Process, Alternative Dispute Resolution or court process; or Participating in Truth and Reconciliation or Commemoration events.

ACCESSING SERVICES

To access Counselling, Emotional Support, Cultural Support, and/or Transportation services please contact the Regional Coordinator for the IRS Resolution Health Support Program located in your province/territory.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING

Counselling services are provided by registered Health Canada service providers. This service is coordinated by IRS Resolution Health Support Program Regional Coordinators.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Emotional Support services are provided by Resolution Health Support Workers to eligible former IRS students and their families before, during and after the process of resolving an IRS claim or applying for the Common Experience Payment, as well as during participation in Truth and Reconciliation and Commemoration events. These services are coordinated through agreements with Aboriginal or Aboriginal-affiliated organizations.

CULTURAL SUPPORT

Cultural Support services are provided by Elders to eligible former IRS students and their families before, during and after the process of resolving an IRS claim or applying for the Common Experience Payment, as well as during participation in Truth and Reconciliation and Commemoration events. These services are coordinated through agreements with Aboriginal or Aboriginal-affiliated organizations.

Calling all young artists...

Each month we would like to include a piece of artwork or writing (including poems, short stories, etc.) in our newsletter to highlight talent amongst our youngest tenants!

If you are between the ages 5 and 13 and would like to contribute your work to our monthly newsletter please contact Danielle Powell at (416) 481-4451.

PLEASE NOTE: Submissions must be no bigger than 5 1/4" x 4 1/4" (approximately half a piece of paper) and should include your name, address and age on the back of your work.



We look forward to seeing all of your wonderful submissions!

Check back each month to see if your artwork or writing is printed in the newsletter!



YOUR "HOUSE TO HOUSE" NEWS

Wigwamen Incorporated

#310 - 25 Imperial St.

Toronto, Ontario

M5P 1B9

www.wigwamen.com

Phone: 416-481-4451

Fax: 416-481-5002

If you have submissions for the "Wigwam to Wigwam" newsletter, please contact:

Danielle Powell

(416) 481-4451

dpowell@wigwamen.com